

What is claimed is:

1. A palm pad system for enabling a user to electronically display, store, and retrieve hand written data, the palm pad system comprising:
 - a base;
 - an electronic notepad retained on the base;
 - a personal digital device retained on the base, the personal digital device being coupled to the notepad;
 - a source for generating a signal, the source being positioned in close proximity to the notepad,
 - wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to sense the signal generated by the source, the signal corresponding to a relative position of the source with respect to the notepad; and
 - wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to communicate the relative position of the source to the personal digital device, the personal digital device being constructed and arranged to generate an electronic file representing the relative position of the source, the electronic file being displayed on a display area associated with the personal digital device.
2. The palm pad system of claim 1, wherein the electronic notepad includes an integrated printed circuit board assembly having a plurality of etched loops formed thereon, the etched loops being receptive to the signal generated by the source.
3. The palm pad system of claim 2, wherein the etched loops are uniformly distributed over the surface of the printed circuit board assembly, the etched loops defining an X-grid pattern and a Y-grid pattern.
4. The palm pad system of claim 3, wherein the electronic notepad further includes a paper-pad, the paper-pad being securely mounted on the printed circuit board assembly.
5. The palm pad system of claim 1, further comprising an elongated pen, the pen containing the source.
6. The palm pad system of claim 5, wherein the elongated pen further comprises:
 - a hollow elongated body having a first end and second end;
 - an ink supply positioned in the hollow elongated body;

a writing tip, the writing tip being coupled to the ink supply;
a micro-switch coupling the source to the writing tip, wherein actuation of the micro-switch couples the writing tip to the source

7. The palm pad system of claim 6, wherein the source includes an electromechanical transmitter.

8. The palm pad system of claim 7, wherein the elongated pen further comprises:
a cap having an aperture with a retractable non-writing tip mounted therein, the cap being dimensioned to closely conform to the first end and the second end of the pen, the first end of the pen cooperating with the non-writing tip to force the non-writing tip into a retracted position defined in the cap and the second end of the pen cooperating with the non-writing tip to force the non-writing tip to extend outwardly from the aperture defined on the cap.

9. The palm pad system of claim 1, wherein the base includes a personal digital device retaining surface for securely retaining the personal digital device on the base and a notepad retaining surface for securely retaining the notepad on the base.

10. The palm pad system of claim 9, wherein the base further includes a flexible section defined intermediate the personal digital device retaining surface and the notepad retaining surface, the flexible section enabling the personal digital device retaining surface and the notepad retaining surface to be folded toward each other.

11. The palm pad system of claim 9, wherein the personal digital device retaining surface is pivotably coupled to the notepad retaining surface.

12. The palm pad system of claim 10, wherein a number of substantially rigid loops are mounted on the flexible section defined on the base, the number of loop being longitudinally aligned with respect to each other, each loop being dimensioned to accept a cylindrical object therethrough.

13. The palm pad system of claim 10, wherein the base further includes a flap, the flap being mounted on the base adjacent to the personal digital device retaining surface, the flap enclosing the couple defined between the personal digital device and the notepad.

14. The palm pad system of claim 9, wherein the base is comprised of a synthetic material.

15. The palm pad system of claim 9 wherein the base is comprised of leather.

16. The palm pad system of claim 9 wherein the base further includes a power supply retaining structure adapted to retain a power supply in a secure position on the base.

17. An integrated palm pad system for enabling a user to electronically display, store, and retrieve hand written data, the palm pad system comprising:

a housing having a first window and a second window;

an electronic notepad coupled to a personal digital device, the notepad and the personal digital device being contained in the housing, the notepad being positioned adjacent to the first window and the personal digital device being position adjacent to the second window;

a source for generating a signal, the source being positioned in close proximity to the notepad,

wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to sense the signal generated by the source, the signal corresponding to a relative position of the source with respect to the notepad; and

wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to communicate the relative position of the source to the personal digital device, the personal digital device being constructed and arranged to generate an electronic file representing the relative position of the source, the electronic file being displayed on a display area associated with the personal digital device.

18. A palm pad system for enabling a user to electronically display, store, and retrieve hand written data, the palm pad system comprising:

a base;

means for converting handwritten data into an electronic file, the means for converting handwritten data into an electronic file being retained on the base;

means for receiving and processing the electronic file, the means for receiving and processing the electronic file being retained on the base,

wherein the means for receiving and processing the electronic file is constructed and arranged to display, store, and retrieve the electronic file.

19. The palm pad system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving and processing the electronic file comprises:

means for displaying the electronic file;

means for storing the electronic file;

means for retrieving the electronic file; and

means for controlling the displaying, storing and retrieving of the electronic file.

20. A palm pad system for enabling a user to electronically display, store, and retrieve hand written data, the palm pad system comprising:

a laptop computer;

an electronic notepad integrated with the laptop computer;

a source for generating a signal, the source being positioned in close proximity to the notepad,

wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to sense the signal generated by the source, the signal corresponding to a relative position of the source with respect to the notepad; and

wherein the notepad is constructed and arranged to communicate the relative position of the source to the laptop computer, the laptop computer being constructed and arranged to generate an electronic file representing the relative position of the source, the electronic file being displayed on a screen associated with the laptop computer

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ABSTRACT

A palm pad system including an electronic notepad coupled to a conventional personal digital device ("PDD") via a data bus is set forth that enables a user to transpose handwritten data into electronic files or pages. The notepad and PDD are mounted onto a common base. The base includes a retaining structure for retaining the notepad on the base and another retaining structure